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EVERY MAN HIS OWN JUDGE:

OR,

GRANDEUR and UTILITY

POINTED OUT IN THE

Formation of a Horſe;

COMPREHENDED

In a minute, clear, and particular DESCRIPTION of his ſeveral PARTS, PROPERTIES, PERFECTIONS, &c.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

The moſt approved METHOD of BREEDING and TRAINING up

YOUNG COLTS,

AND

OF FEEDING AND EXERCISING FOR THE

ROAD or FIELD;

TOGETHER,

WITH AN INVARIABLE RULE FOR KNOWING A HORSE'S AGE;

AND THE

Beſt and ſafeſt Method of NICKING.

The Whole interſperſed with a variety of OBSERVATIONS and REMARKS, worthy the notice of the Curious.

By THOMAS HORNBY MORLAND.

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THE AUTHOR's ADDRESS TO THE READER.

THE uſe of Horſes having become common with the generality of people in this kingdom, it is a matter of great ſurpriſe to me, that they have not endeavoured to become better judges; for I am well convinced, that not one man in a hundred has any knowledge what-

ver of the perfections and properties of that valuable animal.

It is with a view to inſtruct the unſkilful, and to convince thoſe, who pretend to have knowledge, that they are yet, many of them, incompetent judges, I have been induced to undertake the following treatiſe; and I thought it the more neceſſary, as I had not ſeen in any author who has written on the ſame ſubject, a deſcription of the ſeveral ſhapes or parts of a Horſe, agreeable to ſound judgment.

I have therefore been very particular, in order that gentlemen, as well as farmers, may not in future

be at a loſs to know the true ſhapes and good properties of that noble and uſeful creature; but be enabled by the inſtructions I have given to make a proper choice; at the ſame time, flattering myſelf, my endeavours for the benefit of mankind will prove acceptable and ſufficient to convince my reader, in particular, of my pre-eminence in the knowledge of a Horſe: an acquiſition which has reſulted from cloſe ſtudy, and very great experience.

As I have endeavoured to avoid any thing ſuperfluous, and which is not in ſome degree connected with a knowledge of the exterior appearance and good properties of a Horſe,

ſo I have been careful to give all neceſſary information, well knowing the merit of a publication does not conſiſt in its number of ſheets, but in its originality, ſtrength of argument, and general utility.

OBSERVATIONS.

THERE is not any animal, which, in my opinion, commands and deſerves the admiration of mankind ſo much as a fine Horſe. The Omnipotent has ſhewn his infinite ſkill and wiſdom, in the formation of that beautiful animal, and ſeems from the following deſcription, to have placed him at the head of the brute creation.

* "Haſt thou given the Horſe ſtrength? Haſt thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canſt thou make him afraid as a graſshopper? The glory of his noſtrils is terri-

* Job. Chap. 39, Verſe 19, to the 25.

ble. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his ſtrength: he goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted: neither turneth he back from the ſword. The quiver rattleth againſt him, the glittering ſpear and the ſhield. He ſwalloweth the ground with fierceneſs and rage: neither believeth he that it is the ſound of the trumpet. He ſaith among the trumpets, Ha, ha: and he ſmelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the ſhouting."

His noble air and grandeur, ſtrength, ſwiftneſs, longevity, ſagacity, and docility, have rendered him the delight of mankind, in all countries, and in all ages; in ſhort, there is ſomething captivating in his whole appearance, in all his geſtures and actions.

The preſent ſtrain of Engliſh race-horſes, hunters, and road-horſes, are the produce of thoſe which have been imported from different countries, but chiefly from the Eaſtern nations. Several Engliſh gentlemen have been at very great trouble

and expence in procuring fine Horſes from Arabia, Barbary, and other adjoining kingdoms, as they are allowed to excel the reſt of the world in the breed of Blood-horſes. In Arabia, a fine Horſe is worth from £1000, to £2000 Sterling, and one of this ſort is conſidered a ſufficient fortune to a child on marriage.

The young men of quality will not intruſt one of thoſe to the care of his ſervant, but will himſelf ſee him regularly dreſſed and fed; and I am credibly informed, they are ſo much attached to a favourite animal as to ſleep in an adjoining apartment, leſt any danger ſhould befall him in the courſe of the night.

The diverſion of horſe-racing ſeems chiefly confined to the Engliſh: we have therefore been at great pains in training horſes for the courſe, and I am confidently of opinion, we have attained to ſuch a degree of perfection in this art, that it does not admit of any further improve-

ment; our race-horſes having more ſpeed, and being able to maintain it longer than thoſe of any other kingdom in the whole world.

Although we cannot boaſt of originality in fine Horſes, yet it may be aſſerted with truth, that we have uſed the beſt means of improving the breed, by croſſing ours with thoſe of diſtant countries, famed for their ſuperiority, and are at preſent in poſſeſſion of a moſt beautiful and valuable ſtrain.

Taſte is required as much in the judgment of a horſe, as in that of a painting, or piece of ſculpture; I ſhall therefore be under the neceſſity of giving a minute and particular deſcription of each part diſtinctly, and ſeparately, which united, will form a complete Horſe, according to the rules of proportion, and agreeable to the received notions of grandeur and utility.

A minute Description of the several Parts of an English Road-Horse, or Hunter.

The HEAD.

THE Head, which commonly firſt attracts our notice, ſhould be ſmall, neither too long, nor yet too broad acroſs the forehead: the nether lip ſmall, and not hanging lower than the upper. The noſtrils pretty large when expanded, the muzzle ſmall up to the cheek-bones. The cheek-bones not too broad, but open underneath, in order to facilitate reſpiration. The eyes large, full, tranſparent and ſparkling, without any hollowneſs above them. The forehead to grow narrower from acroſs the eyes, up to the ears. The brow prominent, the ears to be of moderate length, narrow, and placed pretty cloſe together. The whole head to hang on in a handſome poſition; being from the ears downwards looſe from the neck, and clear of any glandulous ſub-

ſtances; ſo that it can be brought inwards without lowering the neck, with perfect eaſe to the animal.

SHOULDERS.

I ſhall next proceed to a deſcription of the ſhoulders, upon which, utility and grandeur chiefly depend. It is a point principally to be regarded, for unleſs the ſhoulders are formed agreeable to my deſcription, the horſe can neither move with eaſe to himſelf, nor pleaſure to his rider. The boſom ſhould be full and prominent, the points of the ſhoulders on each ſide the boſom not too far diſtant, for a wide breaſted horſe cannot have much ſpeed, but may be well calculated for a carriage, where ſtrength is more neceſſary than ſwiftneſs. The ſhoulder-blades, from thoſe points upwards, ſhould decline very much backwards, growing regularly thinner upwards, and lying firm and cloſe, finiſhing within two or three inches of the top of the ſhoulder. If the ſhoulder-blades lie heavy, looſe, and thick upwards, depend upon it, the action

will be bad; but if in the manner I have deſcribed, you may reaſonably expect the contrary. Alſo obſerve, that unleſs the ſhoulder-blades decline very much backwards, (from the points acroſs the breaſt upwards) he cannot have a grand and lofty forehand, nor the perfect uſe of his forelegs; for he will not carry his rider in his proper place, I mean ſufficiently backwards; but will have too much weight continually upon his fore-legs.

The NECK.

The neck ſhould riſe out of the ſhoulders, and almoſt upright on the under part above the boſom: a lofty neck, regularly tapering to the head, and coming handſomely out, very much curved underneath, and particularly upright juſt above the boſom, is a principal point of grandeur; but ſuch a neck is never to be found, without ſhoulders of the foregoing deſcription. The neck ſhould be long, riſing regularly in the creſt, (or upper part thereof,) clean, ſprightly, and ſmall near the head; ſo that

when the horſe is bridled, it may bend a little behind the ears, and appear higher in that part. When the horſe is mounted, the fall from the higheſt part of the creſt, towards the head, is very beautiful, and gives a pleaſing air to the whole forehand.

The FORE-LEGS.

The arm, being the part between the ſhoulder and the knee, ſhould be rather long, but very ſtrong and muſcular, falling almoſt perpendicular down, from the outermoſt and wideſt part of the ſhoulders, and the elbow, or joint on the hind part thereof, turning outwards; for if that is too much inwards, and cloſe to the cheſt, the horſe cannot move lineable, and with agility, but will turn out his toes and ancle or interfere. The knee joint ſhould be handſome, and proportionable. That part of the leg from the knee to the fetlock, is ſeldom found too ſhort; ſhould be bony, flat, and nearly of an equal thickneſs in all parts; (not ſmaller immediately below the knee, for that indicates weakneſs) alſo

clear of any gumminefs. The back ſinew lying all the length, parallel to the ſhin-bone, and ſo far diſtant, that you may take hold of it between your finger and thumb, almoſt ſeperate from the leg. The paſtern, or ancle joint, ſhould be in proportion to the knee, not having too much long hair growing behind, for that denotes a bad ſtrain of horſes. That part betwixt the joint and the hoof, ſhould be upright and not too ſhort; but ſo ſtrong, that when the horſe is mounted, the ancle joint will not drop much nearer the ground. It is highly neceſſary, in order to render the motion eaſy to the rider, that the paſterns ſhould have a conſiderable degree of elaſticity, and they may be compared to the ſprings of a carriage: but as ſprings ſhould return to their proper tone, ſo the paſterns ſhould be elaſtic, ſtrong, and able to ſupport the weight of the rider. The hoof ſhould not be too high, the toe pointing ſtraight forward, of an elliptical ſhape, growing wider backwards, and rather narrower towards the heel, but ſhould be open underneath. Black hoofs are the beſt and tougheſt; but moſt

horſes have one or more white, and ought not to be objected on that account. The whole leg, from the ſhoulder, to the hoof, ſhould taper regularly.

BACK, CHEST, RIBS, &c.

The top of the ſhoulder ſhould riſe well, be thin, and have a handſome deſcent into the back; which ſhould be ſhort and ſtrong. The cheſt deep, and capacious, ſo that the lungs may have ſufficient room to expand themſelves in reſpiration, with deep ribs, and good flanks. Horſes having ſhort ribs, are generally weak, bad feeders, and of a waſhy conſtitution; and after a hard day's work, have their bellies tucked up like a greyhound: whereas, thoſe with deep ribs, appear little worſe after hard exerciſe. The diſtance between the ribs and hip, ſhould not exceed two or three fingers, yet, I do not like a horſe too ſhort coupled for the field, as he cannot bring his haunches ſufficiently inwards in his gallop; for the road, it does not ſo much ſignify. The back ſhould be level on the

top, growing broader towards the fillets, and ſtrongly coupled to the quarters.

QUARTER.

The quarter ſhould be long from the hip-bones, (which ought to lie level with the ribs) to the ſkirts, round and plump upwards, but not too much loaded with fleſh; and handſomely turned from the fillets to the tail, which ſhould be ſet on high, and not too thick in the rump, for it denotes a bad ſtrain.

THIGHS and HIND-LEGS.

The thighs ſhould be plump, round, and well grown downwards, ſo that when you ſtand behind the animal, the muſcular parts thereof, ſhould be wider acroſs than the hips: I mean, that the thighs ſhould ſwell out externally downwards. The hind-legs ſhould fall pretty ſtraight down, taper regularly, and be proportionable to the fore-legs; crooked hind-legs, or what are

commonly termed, *ſickle houghed,* have a very diſagreeable appearance.

A horſe ſhaped agreeable to my deſcription, poſſeſſing a good natural ſpirit, will, when mounted, carry his rider in his proper ſeat, I mean upon the ſtrongeſt part of his back; have his fore-legs at liberty, and before the knees of his rider; but one with upright ſhoulders, carries the weight of his rider chiefly upon his fore-legs, which are two much underneath, therefore he muſt of courſe, frequently ſtumble, and will very ſoon tire. Upright ſhoulders ought particularly to be avoided, if my reader values his neck, or wiſhes to be mounted genteelly.

ACTION.

Good action is the next thing to be conſidered: by it is meant, that the animal ſhould move with eaſe to himſelf, and pleaſure to his rider; both which he moſt certainly will do, if he is formed agreeable to the foregoing deſcription. He ſhould move

his legs lineable; lift his feet high, or low, as occaſion requires; bend his knees; and walk in ſuch a manner, that his ſtepping may have a muſical ſound to the ear. It gives me peculiar pleaſure to ſee a horſe walk well, and ſhift his feet quickly, and nimbly; for if he does that, he generally trots, and gallops in a good ſtyle. I do not know any method of proving a horſe's walk, equal to that of riding him down hill, with the bridle looſe upon his neck; for if he is weak in his ſhoulders, and apt to ſtumble, you will moſt certainly diſcover it; but if he moves with nimbleneſs, and agility down hill, and ſteps firmly and ſecurely under you, depend upon it his action is ſafe and good. Some horſes in rough road will take ſhort ſteps, or long ones, lift their feet high, or low, as occaſion requires, and ſcarce ever ſtumble. When my reader meets with one of that deſcription, let him ſet a proper value upon him. A very good walker will perform five miles in an hour. Ignorant men imagine, that when a horſe makes much

ſhew, and ſtrikes far in his trot, that he gets faſt forward; whereas, it is a groſs miſtake, for ſuch movers are not ſo ſpeedy, nor can they maintain it ſo long. A faſt trotter bends his knees, ſhifts his feet quickly and nimbly, and makes very little ſhew: his fore-legs in the action ſeem continually curved, for the quickneſs of the motion gives them that appearance. I have known a horſe moving in that manner, able to perform ſixteen miles in an hour. A faſt trotter may be known almoſt as well by the ear, as the eye; for his ſpeed depends entirely upon ſhifting faſt. In a gallop, he ſhould bring in his haunches well, I mean underneath, have his fore-legs at liberty, and move lightly, dwelling very little upon the ground.

COLOUR.

Some people are very particular in reſpect to colour, but I muſt own, it ſhould never influence me in the choice of a riding horſe, or hunter; yet, I rather object to a light cheſnut; my principal reaſons are,

that horſes of that colour, generally have white feet, which are more brittle, and leſs durable than black; and they are often of a waſhy conſtitution. Bays, browns, blacks, and greys, I hold in equal eſtimation for the above purpoſe. As to coach horſes, bays are generally preferred, but faſhion and fancy ſometimes induce gentlemen to run other colours. The old adage ſays, "A good horſe cannot be of a bad colour."

SIZE.

I would not deſire a horſe for the road, to exceed fifteen hands; for I have found thoſe of that ſize more nimble and active than taller horſes; but for the field, fifteen hands, two inches, or ſixteen hands; for I never knew a low horſe a good hunter. A high horſe has evidently the advantage at a leap, has generally more ſtrength and ſpeed; and in marſhy heavy ground, is much cleaner, and preferable in every other reſpect. A hunter of the ſize I mention, ſhould be deep in the cheſt, and not too long in the

legs; yet, ſprightly in his make, and what is termed, *field-like*, abounding with natural ſpirit.

Horſes well deſcended, or abounding with natural ſpirit, are generally the beſt tempered, and moſt docile: I therefore wiſh my reader never to make choice of a clumſy, heavy, rough-legged ſluggard for the road, or field; and to avoid even any croſs of that ſort, in the ſtrain he breeds from, or in the horſes he may purchaſe for hunting. It is evident nature has deſigned them for the purpoſes of ſlavery.

Few horſes are to be found without ſome imperfections: my reader muſt not therefore expect to find one, in every particular, agreeable to my deſcription; but recollect, the nearer the better. Let him however be careful in obſerving that the ſhoulders are ſo, that his back is ſhort, and ribs deep, with good legs and action; as ſuch an animal, although not remarkable for its grandeur, may be very uſeful. I muſt confeſs, it is a very difficult taſk to meet

with a good horſe, and the arts practiſed by dealers, put it entirely out of any man's power, (who is not a judge) to diſtinguiſh one of natural ſpirit from a ſluggard; for every time the dealer goes into the ſtable, he gives the poor animals the diſcipline of the whip, which makes them always jump and ſtare at his preſence, expecting ſimilar treatment. When my reader goes into a dealer's ſtable, let him not permit a whip to be uſed, but ſee the horſe he fixes upon, led out in a halter, and walked gently to and fro in a line; he will then be able to judge of his natural ſpirit and action. Afterwards ſee him mounted, and perform all his paces: and if my reader is at the pains of peruſing this little treatiſe repeatedly, he will be able to know his age, to guard againſt any natural blemiſhes, to diſtinguiſh good ſhapes from bad, good actions from bad, a natural lively ſpirit, from a ſluggiſh diſpoſition; in ſhort, he will be able to chooſe for himſelf, and depend confidently upon his own judgment. Remember, you can as well judge of the inclinations of a horſe, by the motion of his ears, as of

a dog, by the wagging of his tail; and horſes of good temper, and a lively ſpirit, keep moving them continually, and prick them up on the appearance of any object which attracts their attention.

When the horſe you intend to purchaſe, firſt comes out of the ſtable, examine his eyes very carefully, and ſee that they are full, clear, and tranſparent.

Directions for Breeding and Training up Young Colts, for the Road or Field.

THERE is not any county in England, wherein the breed of horſes is ſo much attended to as Yorkſhire, or in which ſo many good ones are bred; a few are produced accidentally in every county, but in it, the gentlemen and farmers are particular in the choice of mares: and I am well convinced, it is a moſt eſſential conſideration, for as "*like begets like,*" and as the mare in all probability may have as great a ſhare in the act of *coition* as the horſe, we ought to be as particular in the choice of the one as the other. Some mares breed after their own make and faſhion, others entirely after the horſe, this I aver (from experience) to be true, while the produce

of others partakes of the faſhion and temper of both ſire and dam. This animal breeds very much after the preceding ſtrain, even to the moſt diſtant generation; we therefore cannot be too particular in tracing the pedigrees of thoſe we breed from.

I am confidently of opinion, that the beſt horſes for the road or field, are produced from a Yorkſhire country bred mare, and a blood horſe; they are much ſtronger, and better able to endure fatigue and hard exerciſe than full bred horſes. The mare ſhould be young and mouldy, with a capacious belly, and ſhaped agreeable to my deſcription; but obſerve, that mares are finer in the head and neck than ſtallions. Be careful the ſhoulders decline towards the back, that the forehand comes out as upright as poſſible; and that the legs are muſcular above the knees and houghs, and bony below, not abounding with long hair at the fetlocks. As to a ſtallion, I prefer for the above purpoſe, a full bred horſe: well deſcended, and which has proved his

abilities upon the turf. If formed agreeable to my deſcription, he cannot be too ſtrong and full of bone. The produce of ſuch a horſe and mare generally proves agreeable to the utmoſt wiſhes of the breeder.

I condemn a practice, too prevalent among farmers, of croſſing a cart mare of the Lincolnſhire, or Derbyſhire breed, with a blood horſe, expecting thereby, to produce a hunter of ſize and bone participating of the ſhapes and good qualities of ſire and dam, in an exact medium, betwixt the two; for the breeder is generally diſappointed in his expectation, and the colt proves a ſort of heterogeneous animal, calculated for no one uſe or purpoſe whatever. The reaſon why I prefer Yorkſhire country mares to any other is, becauſe they are generally one half, or three parts blood: and experience has already proved beyond a ſhadow of doubt, that the produce of ſuch mares and blood horſes has a pre-eminence above all others for the road or field.

Let the ſtallion you make choice of, poſſeſs as great an aſſemblage of perfections as are commonly united in one animal; examine with care and attention his head, eyes, noſtrils, ears, neck, ſhoulders, back, ribs, flank, quarters, thighs, legs, feet, &c. for the nearer they correſpond with my foregoing deſcription, the more reaſonable expectation you may form of a promiſing colt; and it will not be amiſs to aſcertain as nearly as you can, his temper and diſpoſition, avoiding a procreation of vices and imperfections, by a judicious election of good ſhapes, properties, qualifications, &c. See that his action is good, and guard againſt hereditary and natural defects and blemiſhes, ſuch as blindneſs, ſpavins, ring-bones, &c.

I entirely diſapprove of any ſtallion led about from town to town, and proſtituted to the vile purpoſe of *ſelf intereſt*, without the leaſt integrity on the part of the owner, or view to the advantage or ſatisfaction of the breeder; thoſe ſtallions being provoked to cover ſuch an infinity of mares, as

renders it impoſſible for more than one third to prove in foal; and the foals generally are deficient in ſize, bone, ſpirit, &c.

Mares generally carry their colts a year, and the firſt about a month longer. I adviſe, that the mare ſhould be ſerved the latter end of March, or beginning of April; for foals produced early in the ſpring, have greatly the advantage of thoſe dropped in June or July, in a variety of reſpects, (viz.) they get higher and ſtronger, and are enabled to endure the winter much better; indeed, I may ſay, it makes them fit for buſineſs almoſt a year ſooner.

The mare ſhould be well kept all the year ſhe is in foal, and if uſed at all, but very gently; but particular care ſhould be taken of her for the laſt three months. A ſhort time before ſhe foals, her udder will appear full of milk, her teats diſtended, with drops hanging at the ends. Mares generally get into a corner of the field, or ſome private place when they foal, and

avoid being ſeen as much as poſſible; it is therefore neceſſary to give them plenty of room and liberty at that time, for they ſeldom want any aſſiſtance.

As ſoon as the foal is dropped, the mare ſhould have a little more than uſual care taken of her; you may give her a little warm water, with a handful of oatmeal in it, and afterwards a maſh of malt, which is nouriſhing; together with ſweet hay, and a moderate quantity of oats. She ſhould have her provender in the houſe, but the door ſhould be always open, that ſhe may go in and out at pleaſure, both night and day: and thereby have an opportunity of picking up any young graſs, and ranging about where ſhe pleaſes; for confinement would be very injurious and improper. If ſhe is a good milch mare, and you intend ſhe ſhould continue to breed, ſhe ſhould be taken to the ſtallion at the end of ten days, when, or from then to the fourteenth day, ſhe will be in ſeaſon; and it is ten to one ſhe will prove in foal in conſequence of ſuch ſerving, and give no more trouble; yet,

ſhe ſhould be taken to the horſe a fortnight afterwards, in caſe it ſhould be neceſſary.

I have obſerved in my experience, that a foal when ſix weeks or two months old, and fat, has nearly the ſame ſhapes it will have when five or ſix years old, and full grown: the legs only being out of proportion.

As ſoon as there is plenty of graſs ſhe ſhould be ſent to her ſummer paſture, which ſhould be ſweet and luxuriant, hilly and ſpacious, with plenty of water. A feeding paſture which is chiefly ſtocked with bullocks, and but few ſheep, is moſt proper. The foal ſhould remain with its dam until the latter end of November, when it ſhould be taken from her, and haltered.

As fatal accidents have very frequently happened in haltering foals, great care ought therefore to be taken; I think the following method ſafeſt and beſt. Let the head-ſtall of the halter be flat,

and tie a knot under the jaw-bones to prevent it from drawing too tight, the preſſure will then be principally behind the ears. You may put it on by ſtratagem without much difficulty, this ſhould be done in a paddock, or large open houſe, well littered. Let the ſhank of the halter be five or ſix yards long; hold faſt the end of it, taking care the foal is at a diſtance from the wall, and pull gently; when finding itſelf faſt it will run back, and plunge until it caſts itſelf; you ſhould keep continually pulling gently, and force it up again; when finding itſelf conquered, it will lead without attempting to run backwards in future. It ſhould wear a halter always upon its head in the winter, with the ſhank ſo tied up that it cannot ſtep upon it.

It ſhould now be taken into the houſe, and fed with green and fragrant hay, and a ſmall quantity of oats, not exceeding three or four pints in one day, given at twice: one half before it has water in the morning, and the remainder the laſt thing

at night; it ſhould have water at ſix or ſeven in the morning, and four in the afternoon. In a week it will forget its dam, and may be kept either with or without company; ſhould have an opportunity of ranging about the field in the day time, and liberty to go into the houſe at pleaſure; but at night ſhould be turned into an open houſe with others, tied up in a ſtall, and ſhut up till morning.

I do not know any thing equal to new milk for making a foal grow in ſize and bone, and thoſe intended for ſtallions in Yorkſhire, are generally ſuſtained with it all the winter; but unleſs you intend the foal for ſome particular purpoſe, it will grow very well without any. A little boiled barley now and then will be proper, and clover at intervals inſtead of hay. In the ſpring the foal loſes what is termed the *foal-fat*, and if well deſcended, appears ſlim and ſprightly until riſing four, when it will begin to furniſh and grow downwards, and continue to do ſo until ſix; having then acquired its

full and perfect ſhapes. It is a promiſing ſymptom when young colts appear ſprightly in their make and figure, until three years old; for if they ſeem full grown before that time, they ſeldom have much grandeur when come to age: yet, the generality of mankind, from want of judgment and experience, are of a contrary opinion. In the month of April you may increaſe the quantity of corn ſome little, and in May it may be turned to graſs for good. If it is a horſe foal, it ſhould be gelded in the ſpring, (unleſs you intend to breed it up a ſtallion) you will therfore in regard to its preparation before, and treatment after, the operation, obſerve the directions of the perſon who performs it.

When the ſummer is over, and the nights become froſty and cold, it ſhould have an opportunity of going into an open houſe, (which ſhould contain a rack and manger, and be well littered) at pleaſure in the day time, and be kept always in at the night, with a greater allowance of corn, but not to exceed three quarts in one day, given at

twice, at the times before mentioned, till the month of April, when you may give it four quarts.

It ſhould now be docked, being two years old: but only take a few inches off the rump, as it may be made ſhorter at pleaſure. It ſhould be turned to graſs in the month of May; the paſture ſhould be ſuch a one as I have already deſcribed, airy and well watered; as young colts thrive beſt in an open ſituation. Some people (when they intend their colts for racing, or any other particular purpoſe) give them corn all the ſummer, while they are at graſs. When taken from graſs, and the nights become cold, it ſhould be treated in every reſpect, as in the preceding winter; allowing it four quarts of dry ſweet oats per day, and an additional quantity in the month of April, as uſual. It ſhould now be gently broke, and turned to graſs in May; at four years old it may be ridden, but will not be fit for hunting, or very hard exerciſe until ſix. Be careful never to let the colts want ſtraw in the winter.

The country ſtallions in Yorkſhire, or what are called Chapman horſes, are in general the beſt I ever ſaw; and ſhaped agreeable to my deſcription. The produce between them and country mares, are the beſt coach horſes in the whole world.

Colour is much attended to in this breed, and the mares, as well as ſtallions, are fine bays. The geldings deſigned for carriage horſes are moſtly ſixteen hands high, or upwards, full of bone, mouldy in proportion, and active. A coach horſe ſhould be full ſixteen hands, or upwards, to perform well; but for a chariot or phaeton he may be a little lower.

The produce ariſing from thoſe mares and blood horſes, as I have heretofore obſerved, are unequalled for the road or field: they are grand, ſtrong, and active, and in great eſtimation.

Every man who keeps horſes for either buſineſs or pleaſure, wiſhes to poſſeſs good ones, but he will find it a difficult matter

to meet with them, unleſs he takes pains to become a judge, and is able to chooſe for himſelf. If he depends on the gentlemen of the whip, it is ten to one he will not ſucceed agreeable to his wiſhes.

As many of my readers may not know the names of thoſe natural blemiſhes incident to horſes, and in what particular part they are produced, I ſhall give a liſt of thoſe which ought chiefly to be guarded againſt.

A bone-ſpavin is a diſagreeable eye-ſore, affects the horſe with lameneſs, and is incurable. It is produced on the inſide of the hough, or joint of the hind-leg, upon the lowermoſt part thereof, and may be eaſily diſcovered when you ſtand before the horſe.

A bog-ſpavin, (by ſome called a blood-ſpavin) lies in the hollow part of the ſame joint, and generally proceeds from a ſprain, or hard exerciſe. It is ſoft to the touch, (being filled with jelly) and is incurable.

A ring-bone is an excreſcence produced above the hoof, and ſometimes almoſt ſurrounds it, having a whitiſh appearance, reſembling a ſeeded wart: and is incurable.

A curb is produced on the top of the back ſinew of the hind-leg, on the lowermoſt part of the joint, and may eaſily be felt by drawing your hand over that part. If bliſtered on its firſt appearance, it may be cured, but when neglected, renders a horſe very lame.

A ſplint is a bony excreſcence, growing on the inſide of the fore-leg, below the knee joint, and ſeldom affects a horſe with lameneſs; if it comes low down, and is united to the knee joint, it renders a horſe lame.

Broken wind may be very eaſily diſcovered, by giving the animal five minutes quick exerciſe, and when he ceaſes, viewing his flank, which will have an unuſual motion; for he will ſeem to breathe at twice; it is incurable.

The best Method of getting a Horse into proper Condition for the Road or Hunting.

I SHALL fix the commencement at that ſeaſon, when it is common to take horſes from graſs, after having had a ſummer's run, in order to prepare them for the road, or the purpoſe of hunting. As ſoon as your horſe is taken from graſs, put him firſt upon a moderate quantity of hay and corn, and increaſe it by degrees; at the expiration of a few days, when the hard food may naturally be ſuppoſed to have diſlodged the graſs, and ſupplied its place, a proportion of blood may be taken away, according to the ſize, ſtate, and ſtrength of the animal.

If no particular plethora or fulneſs appears, three pints will prove ſufficient for a ſlender or delicate ſubject; two quarts for the more advanced in ſtrength and ſize;

but from the very large and ſtrong, or remarkable foul horſes, may be ſafely drawn full five pints. Be careful to meaſure the quantity, for by taking too much you may relax the whole ſyſtem. After this evacuation, let the ſame food and gentle exerciſe be continued for three or four days: when you may prepare his body by giving him on the day preceding the morning he takes phyſic, three maſhes of bran and oats in equal quantities, ſcalded with boiling water, and covered up until it is of a proper degree of warmth, at morning, noon, and night, putting on a neceſſary quantity of cloths at the time of giving the firſt maſh, to prevent the leaſt hazard or cold from the relaxation of either body or pores. In the morning give one of the following purging balls, of which, four different proportions are ſpecified and calculated for horſes before mentioned, in reſpect to ſtrength, ſize, and conſtitution.

A Mild Purging Ball.

Take of ſuccotrine aloes one ounce; India rhubarb two drachms; jalap and

cream of tartar, each one drachm; ginger in powder two ſcruples; eſſential oil of aniſeſeed, and cloves each twenty drops; ſyrup of buckthorn a ſufficient quantity to form the ball.

A Purging Ball rather more Powerful.

Take of ſuccotrine aloes ten drachms; of rhubarb, jalap, and ginger, each a drachm and a half; and ſyrup of buckthorn to make the ball.

A Strong Purging Ball.

Take of Barbadoes aloes ten drachms; jalap and caſtile ſoap of each a drachm and a half; diagridium and ginger in powder each a drachm; ſyrup of buckthorn ſufficient to make the ball.

A very Powerful Purging Ball.

Take of Barbadoes aloes an ounce and a half; caſtile ſoap and jalap (in powder) of each two drachms; ginger two ſcruples;

oil of aniſeſeed forty drops; oil of cloves twenty drops, which form into a ball, with ſyrup of roſes or buckthorn.

The following method of giving the ball is the ſafeſt and readieſt. Take hold of the animal's tongue ſecurely in your left hand, pull it out on one ſide of his mouth, and having the ball ſurrounded by the fingers and thumb of your right hand extended, puſh your hand boldly to the root of the tongue, and deliver the ball; when you pull your hand out of his mouth, placing it under his jaw, and holding his head up.

The ball being given early in the morning, let it be waſhed down with a quart of water, ſlightly warm, to take off the nauſea as much as poſſible: leave in his rack a little ſweet hay; and in about three hours after give a maſh of ſcalded bran, containing one fourth of oats, upon which let the water be poured boiling hot, and ſtand a proper time to cool before it is put into the manger; as by placing it there too hot, the fumes may produce diſlike which the

horſe does not eaſily get over; on the contrary, by touching the maſh and being burnt, he will not be prevailed on to attempt it in future. In caſe of a fixed averſion to maſhes, a feed of bran may be given at the ſtated periods, in which may be mixed, one quart of ground oatmeal.

Water proportionably warm may be given him to the quantity of half a pail, thrice in the day, and let his maſh be repeated twice that day alſo, and early on the following morning, about which time, the phyſic may be expected to begin its operation; but if the maſh ſhould be refuſed, a pail of warm water may be ſubſtituted, and in two hours after, the horſe (well clothed) walked out for half an hour at leaſt, if the weather permits.

Frequent ſupplies of warm water muſt be given, and two other maſhes at their proper times: by no means omiting to take him out (if the weather is fine) and walk him twice or thrice in the courſe of the

day. But as purgatives adminiſtered to quadrupeds of this deſcription, cannot from the great continuation of the inteſtinal canal be expected to commence their operation in leſs than twenty-four hours; no hurrying or forcing methods muſt be taken to agitate the animal, or produce preternatural effects. So ſoon as the medicine begins to operate kindly, aſſiſt the work by the means before mentioned, at ſtated periods, or at ſuch times as the appetite will permit them to be taken; continuing the maſhes no longer than the phyſic is ſaid to be ſet, or (in other words) the excrements become firm, and reſume their original form.

Indeed the management of horſes during a courſe of phyſic is ſo well underſtood, that little more need be added upon that ſubject; excepting the very neceſſary precaution to avoid cold during theſe operations, by a proper attention to the variations of the weather, and proportionable clothing to the horſe, for a cold caught during a courſe of phyſic, would be attended with the worſt of conſequences.

You may now proceed to feed him with good ſweet hay, dry oats, and ſplit beans, increaſing the quantity by degrees to a peck of oats, a quart of beans, and from fourteen to twenty pounds of hay in twenty-four hours, given at four different times, (viz.) one feed before he is watered in the morning, a ſecond at twelve o'clock, a third after he is exerciſed in the afternoon at five o'clock, and a fourth at eight when he is littered up for the night. It will alſo be neceſſary to give him one, two, or three maſhes of ſcalded bran and oats, or ground malt in the courſe of every week, according to your own diſcretions.

His exerciſe ſhould be increaſed as he gains ſtrength, walking, troting, and gallopping him in turns before and after he is watered morning and afternoon, and in the courſe of three weeks after he has had phyſic, you will find him fit for any reaſonable journey you may be inclined to take.

A hunter may be treated in the ſame manner for the firſt month, when he ſhould

have a ſecond doſe of phyſic more powerful fourteen days after the firſt; take great care to keep him well clothed, walking him about at times, working it off with warm water, and treating him as before mentioned.

He ſhould only have walking exerciſe for ſome days afterwards, when you may gallop him, increaſing it as he gains ſtrength. A fortnight after he has had his ſecond doſe of phyſic, you may give him full exerciſe, and increaſe his quantity of corn to twelve quarts per day, given at four times as before mentioned, with a few ſplit beans and an handful of dry wheat in each feed. He ſhould be taken out at ſix in the morning, galloped gently a mile upon the turf, walked another, then watered, and afterwards walked a mile, then galloped briſkly a mile, walked another, and taken into the ſtable, well dreſſed, &c. give him the ſame exerciſe at four, and after he is well dreſſed, &c. feed him.

He ſhould have a little freſh hay three or four times a day, his feet picked every

time he is exerciſed, when you firſt bring him into the ſtable, and ſtuffed with cow's dung twice or thrice a week, the laſt thing at night. It will alſo be neceſſary to oil his hoofs and heels with neats-foot oil every other day.

Two months after he is taken up from graſs, his fleſh will become pretty firm and his wind tolerably good, when it will be neceſſary to give him a ſweat, take him out early in the morning, put upon him more than double the quantity of cloths he commonly wears in the houſe; and during his uſual exerciſe, gallop him three miles without ſtopping, in puſhes, allowing him at intervals to ſob and recover ſtrength, by pulling him up a little, after which you will find him in a copious ſweat; take him immediately into the ſtable, and ſcrape him, lifting up his cloths a little at a time where you are at work, until he is ſcraped and dry all over, which he will be very ſoon; wiſp him well with ſtraw, give him a good dreſſing, ſome luke-warm water with a little oatmeal in it, and his uſual feed, but no more exerciſe that day.

Continue afterwards to feed and exerciſe him as uſual, giving him another ſweat at the end of a fortnight, when he will be fit to hunt.

It is almoſt unneceſſary to mention (for every perſon of common underſtanding muſt know) that a hunter ſhould be ſtinted in the article of water, only allowing him a neceſſary quantity to dilute his food, which I muſt leave to the diſcretion of the owner, as it will require no unuſual diſcernment, on his part, to aſcertain the proper quantity.

A hunter ſhould be practiſed frequently at the leaping bar, placing it low and leading him over at firſt, but afterwards raiſing it higher, and riding him over.

Early in the morning he is hunted, you ſhould give him his uſual feed, but no water, except to waſh his mouth. When you return from the field, let him be well dreſſed, and examine his legs and heels for pricks, bruiſes, &c. after which, dreſs him well,

give him water with the chill taken off, and afterwards a feed of corn. The next day he ſhould have his uſual exerciſe, and may be hunted every third or fourth day.

A ſtate of perfection in a hunter may be known by the firmneſs of his fleſh, his facility of reſpiration, the ſleekneſs of his coat, and his degree of ſpirit, for he will even ſcorn the ground he treads upon, as alſo by his ability to gallop two or three miles without perſpiring to any conſiderable degree, and by drying quickly after ſuch perſpiration: which ſtate of perfection can only be attained by the care, attention, and regularity of the groom or ſuperintendant, the length of time he is kept at hard meat, together with good dreſſing and conſtant exerciſe when the weather permits.

If you do not regularly perſevere in the mode of feeding and exerciſing I have particularly pointed out, you cannot form any reaſonable hope of bringing your hunter into the field in proper condition. On

the contrary, by implicitly adhering to my advice and inſtructions in the choice of a hunter, and method of training him for the ſport (which I aſſure you are founded on real experience, as I may aſſert without an egotiſm, that I am as able to chooſe a hunter, as any man in this kingdom: and have very lately poſſeſſed ſeveral, not to be excelled) you will be able, by prudently managing your horſe, at the commencement of the chaſe, and riding him with calmneſs and diſcretion throughout, avoiding any unneceſſary leaps, or exertions, to keep up with the fleeteſt pack of hounds, and have the inexpreſſible pleaſure to come in at the death of either fox, or ſtag, without diſtreſſing him beyond his ſtrength and ability.

To know the Age of a Horse by his Mouth.

YOUNG colts, when two years and a half old, (and ſometimes at three) caſt two adjoining teeth in the front of the mouth above, and two below, called gatherers; at three and a half, (and ſometimes at four) one on each ſide of the gatherers above, and one on each ſide below, called ſeparaters; at four and a half, (and ſometimes at five) they caſt the corner teeth above, and below; at five, the new corner teeth appear a little above the gums, but lower in the inſide, and hollow. The tuſhes alſo at the ſame age appear in horſes and geldings; but mares ſeldom have any. From five till ſix, the corner teeth increaſe in length; at ſix, they are nearly half an inch above the gums, grown level on the top, the vacuity leſs, reſembling the eye of a dry bean. At ſeven, the teeth are advanced in length, the mark grows fainter; and at eight, the

teeth are yet longer, but the mark is entirely worn out; the corner teeth being then ſmooth at the top. From eight, until twelve or thirteen, all the front teeth above and below increaſe in length, at which period white hairs are produced above the eyebrows, which increaſe in quantity, in proportion to age.

Grey horſes grow lighter in colour, as they grow older, and when far advanced in years, are entirely white, or flea-bitten.

The new teeth may eaſily be diſtinguiſhed from the ſucking teeth, by their being ſomewhat larger and yellower, the foal-teeth being white.

How to Nick a Horse's Tail.

THE tail being elevated by means of two muſcles which lie on the upper part thereof, and depreſſed by two below; it will be neceſſary to cut the two latter acroſs in three or four different places, taking a piece out of each, then by elevating the tail, and keeping it in that poſition until the inciſions are healed up, by the aſſiſtance of a weight, cord, pullies, &c. the horſe will afterwards carry it in the deſired form, not being able to depreſs it, on account of the additional growth of fleſh, which acts as a wedge underneath.

In order to perform this operation, you ſhould be provided with a very ſharp knife, hooked a little at the point, reſembling a gardener's, but thinned off at the back, ſeveral pledgets of tow, a ſalve made of common turpentine, a little oil of ditto, and

ſome hog's lard, by melting them together; which ſhould be uſed hot; a ſmall ſteel hook to take hold of the ends of the muſcles, and as many pieces of worſted ſtocking, as you mean to make croſs inciſions, five or ſix inches broad, and long enough to tie round the tail. I prefer worſted ſtocking to any other thing, on account of its elaſticity.

Before the horſe is led out of the ſtable, (ſuppoſing his tail to be of a proper length, for it ſhould not be docked at the time of nicking, as it might be the means of looſing a conſiderable quantity of hair in pulleying) let the hair be plaited with a little ſtraw therein, and clubbed up as cloſe as poſſible, in order to keep it from the ſalve, blood, &c. Which done, lead the horſe into a paddock; fix two flat headed halters round his hind paſterns, (firſt wrapping ſome ſoft woollen cloths about them to prevent the ſkin from being rubbed off) croſs them under his belly, and tie them to his fore-legs, above the knee, drawing up his hind and fore-legs cloſer together than he uſually ſtands: put a cloth round his head to blind

him, and let a ſtout man take hold of the bridle pretty cloſe to his head, with his right hand, and in the left hold a twitch fixed to the griſtly part of his noſe, wringing it, to render him inſenſible of the pain he otherwiſe would feel from the operation. Lift up his tail, and according to your own diſcretion mark the inciſions with the back of your knife, making the firſt about an inch from the inſertion of the tail, the ſecond two inches diſtant from the firſt, and the third the ſame from the ſecond; ſome people make four, but three are a ſufficient number.

Hold the tail up, with your left hand underneath, your fore-finger and thumb being towards the root, turning the edge of the knife from you, and placing the tip thereof on the inſide of the muſcle, cut boldly from you, about three-quarters of an inch deep, turn the edge of the knife towards you, and cut through the other muſcle in the ſame manner: then cut through the ſkin between the two muſcles, making the firſt two cuts into one; but go no deeper, as the principal vein and bone

lie at a very little depth between the muſcles. Divide the muſcles in the ſame manner, where you have marked the ſecond inciſion, and the ends will fall down half an inch or more in the firſt; proceed in the ſame manner at the third mark, and the ends will drop down in the ſecond inciſion. Be careful to divide the muſcles entirely through in each cut, but go no deeper; for unleſs you do that, the ends will not drop down in the two lowermoſt inciſions; take hold of the ends with your ſteel-hook, and cut as much of them out, as appears fallen down, apply a pledget, dipped in the ſalve (having firſt made it hot) to the firſt inciſion; put a dry pledget upon that, and letting the tail drop down, put a piece of ſtocking over the pledgets, and draw it very tight, making the knot on the uppermoſt part of the tail: proceed to the ſecond and third inciſions, dreſſing and tying them up in the ſame manner. In five or ſix hours, ſlacken the bandages, for the tail will then have ceaſed to bleed, and bad conſequences might enſue, from ſuffering them to remain tight any longer.

In forty-eight hours after performing the operation, the wounds will digeſt, when you may take off the pledgets, &c. and pulley the tail, obſerving how the horſe uſually ſtands in the ſtall, placing the firſt pulley exactly over his tail, and the other in ſome convenient part of the ſtable: adding a ſufficient weight to the cord, to elevate the tail almoſt perpendicular. You may walk him out in four or five days, and at the end of a week, exerciſe him gently every day.

He ſhould have warm water, with a little oatmeal therein, for the firſt four or five days, and a maſh of malt or ſcalded bran every day; but only a moderate allowance of corn. In three weeks the cuts will be healed up, but keep the tail in the pullies for a month at leaſt.

General Observations.

EVERY gentleman who is fond of a horſe, and wiſhes to be well carried, ſhould be particular in having a lofty and warm ſtable; the ſtalls full two yards wide, with very little deſcent; and the rack and manger placed high: for in a ſtall of that width, a horſe has an opportunity of lying at eaſe, and ſtretching out his legs like a grey-hound before the fire, which he frequently will do, when he has ſufficient room. In warm weather it is eaſy to admit a neceſſary quantity of freſh air, by means of a lattice window, and a ſliding ſhutter in the inſide thereof.

A careful, ſober, and induſtrious groom is the next conſideration: for unleſs a horſe is well dreſſed, and regularly fed and exerciſed, he cannot be expected to perform to your ſatisfaction. The beſt grooms are thoſe trained up from their youth in the

racing ſtables, for they are regularly taught the method of dreſſing, feeding, exerciſing, &c. Many of them do not ſucceed as jockies, yet are well qualified to ſerve in the capacity of grooms; I therefore wiſh every gentlemen who is particular in training his hunters, to provide himſelf with a ſervant of that deſcription. Make choice of the moſt open and airy ſituation for exerciſing your hunters, as ſome heath, or common.

Mr. TAPLIN very juſtly obſerves, that it is impoſſible for any man living, who has made theſe creatures, their wants, gratifications, perfections, and attachments, the object of his contemplation, not to feel the greateſt mortification, when chance or choice brings him to a ſurvey of the ſtables in London, with all their horrid inconveniences. Horſes in general produced from ſtables of this deſcription, all bear the appearance of temporary invalids, from living, or rather exiſting in a ſcene of almoſt total darkneſs; they approach the light

with reluctance, and every new object with additional apprehenſion. They walk, or rather totter, out of the ſtable, in a ſtate of debilitation, or ſtiffneſs of the extremities, as if threatened with univerſal lameneſs. The legs are ſwelled from the knees and hocks downwards, to the utmoſt expanſion of the integument.

The ſtiffneſs of the joints, the ſwelling of the legs, the ſeverity of the cracks, the frequency of the thruſh, the contraction of the hoofs, and the difficulty of reſpiration, are evidently the reſulting effects of deſtructive ſituation, and erroneous management.

To the want of general cleanlineſs, fine air, and regular exerciſe, may be juſtly attributed all the ills I have recited, and many others; let it alſo be remembered, that horſes in the ſituation I allude to, are conſtantly living in certain degrees of heat, not only beyond the ſtate required by nature, but very far exceeding the ſtable temperature of horſes in regular training for the turf.

The evils ariſing from this miſtaken treatment, are only yet enumerated in part, being thoſe that evidently appear upon a ſuperficial ſurvey of the ſtables, and their contents; others become diſcernible upon being brought into action. They are certainly leſs able to bear fatigue than any horſes in the kingdom; from ſo conſtant an exiſtence in the fumes of a hot bath, they never can be expoſed to the external air, in a cold, wet, or winter ſeaſon, without danger to every part of the frame.

If ſuch a horſe is put into ſtrong exerciſe, he ſoon proves himſelf inadequate to either a long or expeditious journey; for whether the body is over-burthened with weak and flatulent food and water at ſetting out; jaded with early fatigue, to which he has not been accuſtomed; or dibilitated with the ſtable diſcipline I have deſcribed; the effect is nearly the ſame. If his journey is of any duration, or his exertions of any great magnitude, it is no uncommon thing to find he has fallen ſick, lame, or tired upon the road; and under the worſt of curſes, a bad cha-

racter, is frequently ſold to the firſt bidder, under whoſe ſyſtematic care, and rational mode of management, a few months perhaps make him as good and valuable a horſe as any in the kingdom.

Cleanlineſs is ſo indiſputably neceſſary to health and invigoration, that it is a matter of ſurpriſe how any perſon, who takes the leaſt delight in horſes, can wilfully neglect a matter of ſuch importance. In ſhort, the ſtricteſt attention ſhould be paid to cleanlineſs, the quality of hay, corn, and water, regularity in feeding, dreſſing, and exerciſe, if my reader wiſhes to have his horſe in good condition, and adequate to the fatigues of a long journey, or the more violent exertions of the chaſe.

Riding on horſeback being an exerciſe conducive to health, and the favorite delight of moſt ladies as well as gentlemen, it is highly neceſſary for thoſe who practice it as a pleaſure, to be at the pains and expence of receiving ſuch inſtructions as may give them a graceful ſeat on horſeback

being thereby enabled to manage the animal with ſkill, and to avoid thoſe dangers which frequently happen from not being able to guard againſt them. Such inſtructions can only be properly received from gentlemen of known and approved abilities in the art; and it is to be lamented the preſent age neglects an accompliſhment ſo uſeful and agreeable.

How ridiculous is it to ſee a gentleman ſitting like a taylor on horſeback, who, in the moment of danger, not knowing how to govern his horſe by the proper uſe of the bridle, has immediate recourſe to the mane: from fear and ignorance loſes his ſeat, puſhes his feet home in the ſtirrups, and being entangled thereby, has reaſon to apprehend the moſt dreadful conſequences; but if he is ſo lucky as to eſcape being dragged by the ſtirrup, contuſions, broken bones, &c. he is perhaps dropped in a dirty part of the road, or in the middle of a brook, (at the expence of a good ſuit of cloaths,) and left behind to ruminate on the diſagreeable, and ſometimes fatal conſequences at-

tendant upon bad horſemanſhip. I ſhould think accidents of this ſort, which happen frequently, would induce the preſent age, to make the art of riding a neceſſary part of their children's education. It is an accompliſhment, which in my opinion, no genteel perſon ſhould neglect.

But what man, in the name of fortune, who entertains that regard for the fair ſex, which their angelic form, natural grace, and delicate manners, entitle them to, would be ſo cruel or unthinking, as to place a lady on horſeback, unpractiſed in the art, at the imminent danger of her life; and perhaps the animal ſhe is mounted upon, as little calculated for her uſe, as one taken out of the wilds of Arabia. On the contrary, when an elegant woman is properly inſtructed in the art, and mounted on a beautiful, tractable, lively, and good tempered animal, regularly trained for her particular uſe, ſhe cannot appear to greater advantage: her dreſs and air give her an additional degree of dignity, which heightens every charm, and never fails to excite univerſal admiration.

A lady's pad cannot be made too gentle and tractable; for her balance is the only means ſhe has of keeping her ſeat on horſe-back, which if ſhe once loſes, it is ten to one ſhe comes to the ground: I therefore hope ladies will be very particular, what ſort of horſes they mount. It is a very nice matter to break a lady's pad properly, for they cannot be made too ſteady and delicate in the mouth.

Many fine horſes are materially injured by being improperly broke; for they are often put into the hands of ignorant men, who, having neither ſkill nor patience, inſtead of proceeding by proper and gentle means, torment the poor animals in a ſhameful manner, making them both ſtupid and dull; and in the end, only teach them bad habits, which they never after forget

Mr. TAPLIN, in his ſecond Volume of the *Gentleman's Stable Directory*, (whoſe ſkill, experience. and improvements in the ſyſtem of farriery, render him deſerving

of the higheſt encomiums) relates a ſtory which corroborates the opinion I have formed upon horſe-breakers in general; I ſhall therefore give it exactly as he relates it. "In the very early part of life I became a temporary ſlave to cuſtom, and credulouſly beſtowed my premium of three guineas, (excluſive of the keep) to have a colt rendered every thing *that was bad*, by the moſt popular diſtributor of equeſtrian diſcipline in the neighbourhood of my reſidence; when, after an abſence of ſix weeks, the time fixed on as neceſſary to complete his education, and render him a paragon of perfection, he was returned ſo *capariſoned*, *bitted*, *caviſoned*, *martingaled*, and *cruppered*, that he ſeemed admirably decorated for the immediate adventures of a knight errant, the field-day charger of a general officer, or ready accoutered for the champion of England to make his public entrance into Weſtminſter-hall. My inſtructions were to ride him for ſome time *in his tackle*, though he was as *well broke*, as *ſteady*, *temperate*, and *ſafe*, as any horſe in the kingdom. My firſt excurſion however, convinced me

of the honour and probity of this ſcientific operator, for the colt was in poſſeſſion of every vice, without a ſingle perfection in his favour, except a wonderful alacrity in *ſtopping*, which he had the kindneſs to do, unſolicited, at every *public houſe* upon the different roads for ſome miles round, to all which he had been rotationally led, and daily placed for many hours in the ſtable of one or the other, while his indefatigable tutor was like, (*friend Razor*, in the Upholſterer,) conſtantly getting drunk for the good of his country!"

It is adviſeable for ſuch as take delight in horſes, to have them broke by patient and ſkilful men, made truly ſenſible of the bit, familiar with all ſorts of objects, and regularly trained, firſt to walk, then to trot, and afterwards to gallop.

No animal poſſeſſes a more retentive memory, few have equal ſagacity and docility; many recent, and wonderful inſtances tend ſufficiently to prove this.

I cannot conclude without mentioning a very great error in the preſent mode of ſaddling horſes, which has lately prevailed among ignorant ſtable-boys, hoſtlers, &c. (for they cannot with any propriety be called grooms) by placing the ſaddle too far backward on the fillets, where the animal is much leſs able to ſupport the rider's weight; and it is done with a view I ſuppoſe to make the fore-hand appear longer, a reaſon not ſufficient to counterbalance the painful ſenſations occaſioned thereby. The forepart of the ſaddle ſhould be placed a little behind the ſhoulder blades, that being its proper place, and the ſtrongeſt part of the back; the girths will then come round the cheſt; for it is both injurous and highly improper to gird the poor creature round the belly.

The girths ſhould be elaſtic, and of a good quality, as the ſafety of the rider depends very much thereon; particularly in the diverſion of hunting, where extraordinary exertions are often required. A light but roomy ſaddle ſhould be prefered, for this

reaſon, that the greater number of points the weight of the rider reſts upon, the eaſier it muſt prove to the animal; and the tree ſhould be fitted to the back before it is made up, if you value your horſe, and wiſh to preſerve him from galls, ſitfaſts, &c. which are very difficult and tedious to cure, often rendering him uſeleſs for ſome months.

Thoſe who have not been regularly inſtructed in the art of riding, will pleaſe to obſerve, that a firm and ſecure ſeat on horſeback, is at all times neceſſary, in order to avoid thoſe accidents which frequently happen from ſurprize, or the ſudden motion of the horſe, on the appearance of any ſtrange object, and which may at all times be preſerved by keeping your knees always cloſe to the ſides of the animal, preſſing therewith down to the calves of your legs. Your heels ſhould drop a little lower than your toes, the feet being almoſt parallel to the ſides of the horſe, and the tips of your toes only placed in the ſtirrups, for by accuſtoming yourſelf to ride in that manner, you get clear of them in caſe of a fall.

The bridle ſhould be held in your left hand, dropping your third finger between the reins, bringing them round the firſt and ſecond, and holding them between the root of the firſt finger and the thumb.

The whip ſhould be held in your right hand: you ſhould ſit upright, and gracefully, with your elbows always cloſe to your ſides, for you will thereby have more ſtrength to ſupport and govern your horſe.

A Weymouth bridle, with bit, and bradoon, is in my opinion, preferable to any other ſort for the road; but for the diverſion of hunting, you ſhould always uſe a plain ſnaffle, as the former would check your horſe too much at a leap.

I ſhall conclude with recommending the frequent peruſal of this treatiſe, for if my reader pays proper attention to my inſtructions and advice, he will be a full match for the gentlemen of the whip, (the dealers) and may venture to purchaſe a horſe out of

their hands, with as little danger of being cheated, as if a thouſand evidences attended to warrant his good properties upon oath.

I alſo ſtrongly recommend Mr. TAPLIN's *Gentleman's Stable Directory*, as the moſt improved Syſtem of Farriery; deſerving the ſtudy and attention of every gentleman and farmer curious in horſes.

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